

The first casualty of war is the truth. This axiom is especially true these days with the US Presidential Campaign of 2016. With charges of censorship and biased reporting around, one needs to be extra-careful about the truthfulness of the reports that one gets.

So when the Trump 2016 campaign decided on making a stop here in South Florida, I just had to attend. Is Trump really a hate-monger or is this just a Democratic charge? Does Trump really have the temperament to be President? Inquiring minds want, no, need, to know the "truth".

### Registration:

We found out about the event the night before, and it being 2016, everything is being done online now. There was a limit of two (2) tickets per mobile phone and as everyone knows, I am one of the five (5) people left on the planet without said device. So that eliminated this as a family fun activity. So instead, I decided to take the eldest child along with me, leaving the spouse and the younger child at home.



Really? \$10 to park at the arena? To be fair, this money is not going to the candidate but rather the facility. If you look closely, you can see a \$20 behind the \$10 coverup. The facility is used by the Florida Panthers Hockey team and the BB&T Center charges \$20 parking. So we decided to park at Sawgrass Mills Mall and walk across the street.

## Protesters

When I told some friends that I was going to the Trump rally, I was told to bring body armor. I was also chastised for bringing a child to such a ruckus event. After all, Broward County is the most blue (votes Democratic) County in the state of Florida. I was expecting a decent protest turnout.



Yes, that is it. All of nine (9) protesters! The doors opened at 4:00 PM with the main event starting at 7 PM. If I could attend the rally, so could the Trump protesters. Needless to say, I was a little disappointed in the anti-Trump turnout.

## So what did the signs say?

Don't Trump (the) USA  
The Hate is just visiting. Florida loves.  
Trump-Putin 2016  
Trump's Wall of Shame – Photos of the various Republicans  
Tiny Hands (couldn't see the rest)  
Trump cardboard cutout saying "I'm dangerous for America"  
No place in the White House for a Sexist  
Dump Trump



# Support Slogans



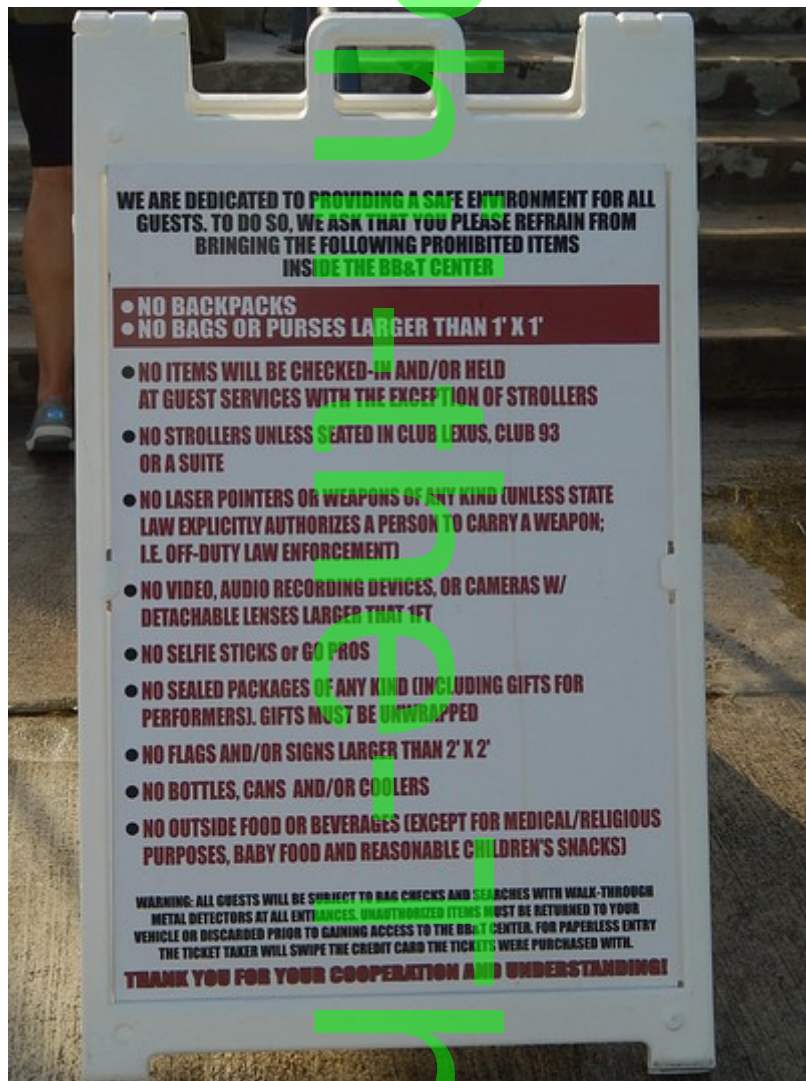


## Security

Security was handled by the TSA with oversight from the Secret Service. For those who do not know, the TSA handles Airport Security and typically lines are long. They did not disappoint. We waited for about 45 minutes before our screening, which went fairly quickly once we got to the front of the line.







## Free Speech

When we finally got in and found a couple of seats, it was time to actually listen to the warm up speakers. Here are the highlights of the opening acts:

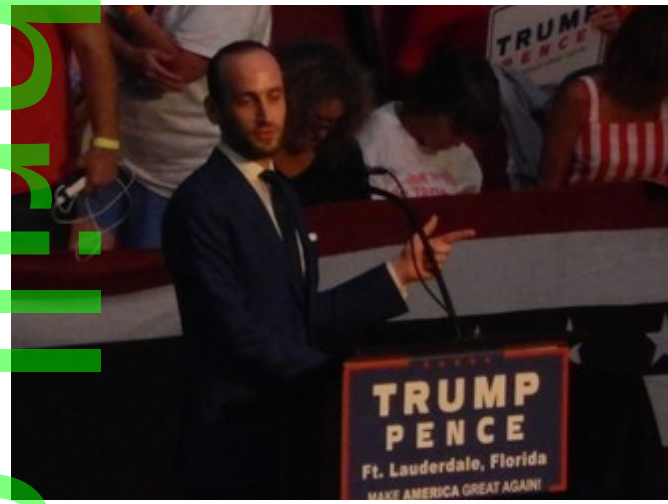
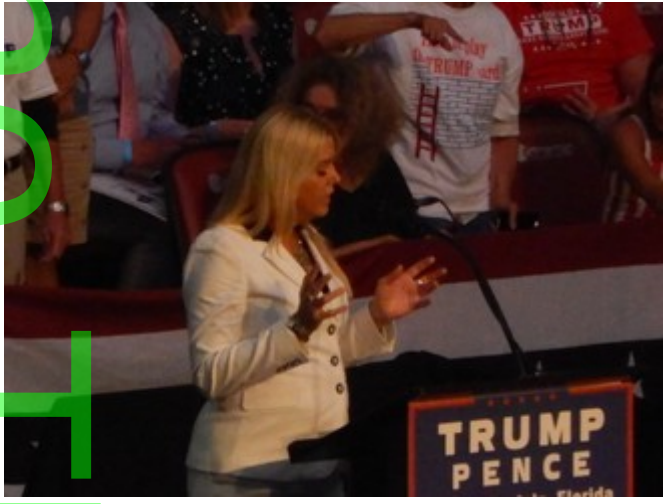
**Diamond and Silk:** I have no idea who they are before this event, being as I do not view video blogs. Their best line: Trump knows how to sign the front of a check as well the back.

**Pam Bondi:** Florida Attorney General. Took over the Obamacare case as Florida was one of first states to sue the US Government over the Affordable Care Act. Best line: I'm tired of suing this President.

**Steven Miller:** Not the musician nor the band. Definitely looked like a politician and spoke like one. Very cliché speech.

**Mike Huckabee:** Former governor of Arkansas. I was a little surprised to see the governor since Huckabee was one of the candidates that Trump defeated in the Republican Primary. Best line: I am more afraid of a Hillary Presidency than I am of getting a mosquito bite in South Florida. (A reference to the Zika virus which the day before was confirmed in mosquitoes in South Florida.)

PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

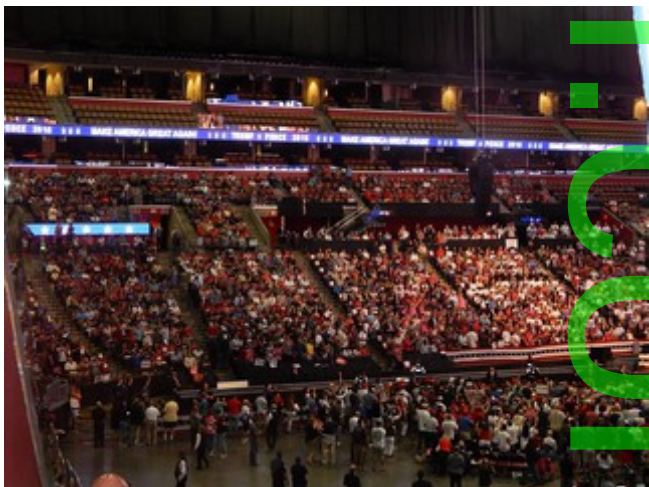






## The Speech

Without going into too many of the details, it was a normal speech...at least for Trump. He spoke for an hour, and I had an inkling it was going to end soon as people started leaving about three (3) minutes before the end. I would like to know how they knew as there was no indication of a closing statement, wrap up or any other traditional speech closings.



## Random Observations & Commentary

The music selection was a tad peculiar:

Rolling Stones: Time is on Our Side

Elton John: Funeral for a Friend

Rolling Stones: Let's Spend the Night Together

(Random Italian Opera piece which I did not recognize)

Creedence Clearwater Revival - Born on the Bayou

Rolling Stones: Can't Always Get What You Want

Lee Greenwald: Proud to be an American – Played When Trump's Speech was over.

Not exactly songs I would have chosen to play at a political rally.

To be fair; the campaigns typically need to get permission to play these songs at the rallies so these were probably the best the campaign could get.

## Acoustics

The audio at the event was horrible. If you hear the audio from YouTube, you'll understand.

## Social Media Ads

In between music and the Public Service Announcement, a series of short campaign ads aired. I found out later that these were released on social media platforms. They were new to me, but not new to most in attendance. The exception to this one was the Pac-Man ad, which was released the previous week, which many in the audience had not seen and got some reaction.

## Protesters Part Deux

One of the more amusing things was the Public Service Announcement which was played between speakers telling us how to deal with hecklers and protesters. We were told to be very nice and not directly engage them. Please point them out to security and drown out their heckling with cries of "Trump! Trump! Trump!"

Considering the amount of security present and how far the podium is from general public, I have to wonder about the mental abilities of the four (4) separate individuals who decided to try to interrupt the proceedings. You register for the event using a mobile phone, you travel to the facility, only to get maybe ten (10) seconds of interruption in before you are physically removed by security and get the pleasure of spending a night in jail.

## Hotties for Trump

One of the observations I've noticed was the number of very attractive women in attendance. Lots and lots and lots of them. A plethora of pretty, beautiful, and... I think I should probably just leave it at that.



## Token Black Guy



We saw these darker skinned individuals with the white T-shirts saying “Republicans are not Racist”. We saw them walk into the arena and Trump acknowledged them during his speech. The cynics among us would say that these are paid actors and that the campaign orchestrated this showing. I might be tempted to consider the charge except that I saw many a dark skinned individual being asked to pose for pictures; especially the ones with some uniqueness about them, be it a T-shirt or sign.

This bothers me and I am not sure why. Could someone help me out here?

### Conclusions:

I find it unlikely that any Hillary Clinton supporter would be swayed by attending this event as much as any Donald Trump supporter would be swayed by attend a Clinton rally. Maybe if someone was not paying close attention to politics, they could be swayed by attending the rally. Considering that most of the attendees were Pro-Trump, I believe this was more of a pep-talk than persuading people.

But when we left, I noticed that the perkiness of the attendees was substantially higher. But then, isn't that the point of a political rally? I suspect many of these people will be volunteering for the campaign and isn't that the backbone of any campaign?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvhnPh3Tgcg>